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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 665  
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to commend the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance for its outstanding work on behalf of the music and culture of the Appalachian region of Virginia.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to pause in deliberations and honor those esteemed organizations that diligently strive to preserve the cultural ties that reinforce our identity as Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance is one such noble organization; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, located in Bristol, is “to bring national and international recognition to the people of the southern Appalachian region, the musical and cultural heritage of the region, its role in the development of country music, and its influence on music around the world”; and

WHEREAS, the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance carries out its mission through the preservation and promotion of the region’s musical heritage, educational programs, and the promotion and support of live musical performances; and

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WHEREAS, Congress has designated 2002/2003 as the "Year of Appalachia" a celebration that will commence with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bristol Sessions and culminate with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1927, Ralph Peer, a record producer from RCA/Victor, arrived in the mountains of Appalachia with the idea of recording traditional music for commercial sale; and

WHEREAS, legendary artists from the area, including the Stonemans, the Carter Family, and Jimmie Rodgers arrived in downtown Bristol for the recording sessions, which featured 76 performances by 19 different groups; and

WHEREAS, the success of those recordings, the first recordings of what is now known as country music, marked the beginnings of commercial country music and led to Congress' declaration in 1998 that Bristol is the "Birthplace of Country Music"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Bristol Sessions in the summer of 2002, the 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will focus national and international attention on the southern Appalachian region and on its musical heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance will be the lead organization working with the Smithsonian Institution in presenting the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in the summer of 2003; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance for its outstanding work on behalf of the music and culture of the Appalachia region in Virginia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Bill Hartley, the Executive Director of the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration, support and best wishes with this final clause omitted from such copy.

